

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 NEA-10

IO-14 DRC-01 /149 W

----- 018333

R 041505Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5273

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0019

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EI

SUBJ: FURTHER IRISH FUEL SUPPLY CUTBACKS

1. IN ANNOUNCEMENT DATED EVENING DECEMBER 28 (BUT NOT CARRIED BY PRESS UNTIL JANUARY 2 EDITIONS), GOI MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND POWER BARRY ANNOUNCED CONTINUING AND RELATIVELY SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON DELIVERIES OF GASOLINE, GAS DIESEL OIL, KEROSENE, AND FUEL OIL. ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED SUPPLIES OF CRUDE OIL FOR WHITEGATE REFINERY AND IMPORTED REFINED PRODUCTS EXPECTED TO FALL 25 TO 30 PERCENT BELOW CURRENT JANUARY 1974. R*QUIREMENTS DESPITE RELAXATION OF ARAB CUTBACKS, BUT THAT IN EXPECTATION OF IMPROVMENT FRO MID-FE*RUARY ONWARD, MINIS*ER HAD DECID D TO CONFINE RESTRICTIONS

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ON DELIVERIES TO 20 PERCENT BELOW JANUARY 1974 REQUIREMENTS, WHICH WILL INVOLVE AS MUCH AS 10 DAY DRAW-DOWN IN SUPPLY STOCKS.

MOST SEVERE CUTBACKS APPLIED TO LEAST ESSENTIAL USERS.

2. FOLLOWING MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BOTH BY MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS:

A) HEATING OIL SUPPLIES CUT BY ALMOST 50 PERCENT FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND BY 34 PERCENT FOR DOMESTIC HEATING.

B) REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRY USING PETROLEUM AS RAW MATERIAL NOT TO BE CUT (HOPEFULLY).

C) REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRY USING OIL AS ENERGY SOURCE TO BE CUT 10 PERCENT.

D) ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD (ESB) TO EXPEDITE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR FORMAL RATIONING BASED ON QUOTA RELATED TO 1973 CONSUMPTION. HOWEVER, IN INTERIM, AS DELIVERIES TO ESB RUNNING SHORT, INDUSTRIAL USERS ASKED CUT CONSUMPTION BY 10 PERCENT, COMMERCIAL USERS BY 20 PERCENT AND DOMESTIC USERS BY 30 PERCENT. ELECTRICITY CHARGES RAISED 10 PERCENT, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, AND FURTHER PRICE RISES ALLOWABLE EVERY MONTH, IF WARRANTED.

E) DUBLIN GAS COMPANY TO INTRODUCE SYSTEM OF FORMAL RATIONING OF PIPED GAS, PRODUCED MAINLY FROM NAPHTHA. GAS COMPANY HAS ANNOUNCED 10 PERCENT PRICE RISE AND SAYS CONSUMPTION MUST BE REDUCED BY ONE-THIRD (WHICH WILL HIT POOREST HOUSEHOLDERS, WHO USE GAS FOR COOKING, VERY HARD).

F) RESTRICTIONS OF FLOODLIGHTING, PUBLIC ADVERTISING CONTINUE; HEATING IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BEING KEPT TO LOWEST LEGALLY PERMISSIBLE LEVEL; 50 MILE PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT RETAINED; STREET LIGHTING REDUCED.

G) SCHOOLS TO REOPEN FROM CHRISTMAS RECESS ONE WEEK LATER THAN SCHEDULED.

3. MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT WARNED THAT, IF VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION FAILS OR ARAB SUPPLIERS REINTRODUCE SUPPLY CUTS, ADDITIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDE GASOLINE RATIONING (PANIC BUYING CURRENT HAS SUBSIDED), REINTRODUCTION OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME, AND EARLY CLOSING OF RADIO AND TV. CONTINUED VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION URGED, AND ANNOUNCEMENT STATES THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR FUEL CONSERVATION CONSULTATION SERVICES.
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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